

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A printing method comprising the steps of:
transporting ~~one of~~ a recording medium and an intermediate transfer ~~medium~~ sheet to an image forming position on a first transport path,
forming an image ~~selectively on one of~~ the recording medium and the intermediate transfer ~~medium~~ sheet at the image forming position on the first transport path,
transporting the recording medium to an image transfer position on a second transport path disposed separately from the first transport path, and
transferring the image formed on the intermediate transfer ~~medium~~ sheet to the recording medium at the image transfer position on the second transport path, wherein said step of forming the image on the intermediate transfer ~~medium~~ sheet is prohibited when the step of forming the image on the recording medium is performed.
2. (currently amended) A printing method according to claim 1, wherein when a mode of forming the image ~~to~~ on the recording medium is set, the image is not formed on the intermediate transfer ~~medium~~ sheet.
3. (currently amended) A printing ~~apparatus~~ method according to claim 1, wherein when the image is formed on the recording medium, the intermediate transfer ~~medium~~ sheet is moved from the image forming position.
4. (currently amended) A printing method according to claim 3, wherein when a mode for ~~setting~~ forming the image on the recording medium is set, the intermediate transfer ~~medium~~ sheet is removed from the image forming position.

5. (new) A printing method according to claim 3, wherein when the image is formed on the recording medium, the intermediate transfer sheet is retracted to a retracted position away from the first transport path where the image forming position is set.

6. (new) A printing method according to claim 4, wherein when a mode for forming the image on the recording medium is set, the intermediate transfer sheet is retracted to a retracted position away from the first transport path where the image forming position is set.

7. (new) A printing method according to claim 1, wherein said intermediate transfer sheet is a continuous film extending from the image forming position to the image transfer position.